

Protecting Your Family's Treasures

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What Dangers Are There?

- Environment
 - Temperature
 - Humidity
 - Light
 - Air Pollution
 - Pest
- Poor Handling
 - Dirt & Fingerprint
 - Folds
- Poor Storage Material
 - Acidic boxes and paper
 - Framing without mats
 - Tape
- Disaster
 - Hurricanes
 - Floods
 - Fire

Environmental Problems

- Keep your treasures where you are: in a regulated environment
- All light is damaging over time and it is irreversible
- Keep screens on open windows and change your air filters
- Cool, dry and low light are the best conditions



Poor Handling

- Dirty Hands
 - Wash your hands before you handle materials
 - Gloves should always be used when handling any photographic materials or metals
 - Fingerprints are permanent
 - Try not to touch your face while handling materials the oil from your skin will transfer
- Don't Pick up Materials at their Edges
 - Always support the material with both hands
- Folded items
 - When possible store materials flat.
 - If paper begins to crack when you unfold it stop and see a conservator
 - Pad clothing or large textiles that must be folded with tissue or cotton batting.

Poor Storage Materials

- Use acid free materials when storing any of your heirlooms
- Use unbuffered materials with some color photographic materials and animal based materials like wool, silk or leather
- Use a box with a lid that is the correct size for your piece
- Make sure the box is not too heavy to lift safely



All Tape is Bad



Mold



Framing



Silver and Metals



Textiles



Paintings



- Paintings are damaged by changes in temperature and humidity. The expansion and contraction can cause paint to flake or cup.
- A panel painting can split because of too much dryness.
- Mat all framed pieces. Pastels should not be close to the glass in their frames. Static will pull the pastel toward the glass.
- Framed photographs should not be removed from the cases.
- Do not hang art on outside walls or across from windows.

Documents and Prints



Documents and Prints



Books



Havre de Grace Town Minutes



Books and Objects



Objects



Photographs, Film and Negatives



Disasters



- Preparation – know your risks, have insurance
- Response – know who to call
- Recovery – will take a while

Large Scale Disasters



Small Scale Disasters



Resources and Supplies

- Please don't be fooled any thing can be called "archival". There are no regulations on what can be called archival.
- Acid free & Lignin free are your best options.
- Pick up a handout before you leave.


